

## **I. Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces without prejudice all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A container comprising:

a base configured to provide vertical support to objects;

a pair of side walls projecting above the base;

a pair of opposing walls projecting above the base, each of the opposing walls presenting an exterior surface and having two ~~curvilinear~~ receptacles defined within the exterior surface, each of the opposing walls including an upper edge, each of said opposing walls having two grooves and two pairs of notches provided in the upper edge; and

two ~~single-piece~~ support members, each ~~single-piece~~ support member having two inwardly-turned ends which pivot within corresponding receptacles of the opposing walls so that each ~~single-piece~~ support member spans across the opposing walls, the ~~single-piece~~ support members extending beyond the exterior surfaces of the opposing walls, and each of the two inwardly-turned ends being pivotally mounted within the receptacles to cause the corresponding ~~single-piece~~ support member to be adjustable between outer, middle, and inner positions,

the grooves of the opposing walls being disposed at outer portions of the upper edges thereof to support the ~~single-piece~~ support members in the outer position at a first height, a first pair of notches of the opposing walls being disposed respectively inward of said grooves to support the ~~single-piece~~ support members in the middle position at the first height, a second pair of notches of the opposing walls being disposed respectively inward of said first ~~second~~ pair of notches to support the ~~single-piece~~ support members in the inner position at a second height lower than the first height, each notch of said first pair of notches and said second pair of notches having a notch depth measured perpendicular to the upper edge of the corresponding opposing wall adjacent the corresponding notch, the notch depth of each of said second pair of notches being greater than the notch depth of each of said first pair of notches extending deeper into the opposing side walls than said first pair of notches, each opposing wall upper edge extending vertically upward between the second pair of notches to a height equal to the topmost surfaces of the second pair of notches.

18. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 17, wherein at least one of said opposing walls is configured to retain the objects vertically supported on the base.

19. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 17, wherein at least one of said opposing walls is configured to provide lateral support to the objects vertically supported on said base.

20. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the first pair of notches in each opposing wall is configured to receive the support members to facilitate support of a second identical container at a first stacking height above the base, and wherein the second pair of notches in each opposing wall is configured to receive the support members to facilitate support of the second identical container at a second stacking height above the base, wherein the first stacking height is different than the second stacking height.

21. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the first pair of notches in each opposing wall is configured to receive and retain the support members at a first support member height above the base, and wherein the second pair of notches in each opposing wall is configured to receive and retain the support members at a second support member height above the base, wherein the first support member height is higher than the second support member height.

22. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the opposing wall upper edges are horizontal, and wherein each of the first pair of notches and has a first depth, and wherein each of the second pair of notches extends vertically downward from the corresponding opposing wall upper edge has a second depth, wherein the first depth is shallower than the second depth.

23. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the exterior surface of each of the opposing walls defines a pair of peanut-shaped receptacles for

effecting pivotal mounting of the support members to the exterior surface of each of the opposing walls.

24. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 23, wherein each of the support member inwardly-turned ends is disposed in a corresponding one of the receptacles provided in the exterior surface of each of the opposing walls, the inwardly-turned ends being moveable within the receptacles.

25. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 17 24, wherein each of the receptacles receives a respective one of the inwardly-turned ends to facilitate pivotal movement of the support member about a pivot axis which is moveable relative to the container.

26. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 25, wherein each of the receptacles comprises a downwardly-curved peanut-shaped slot having an upwardly extending middle portion.

27. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 17, wherein each of the receptacles ~~is substantially circular~~ has a curved upper edge.

28. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the upper edge includes a first upper edge portion having a first edge height above the base, and a second upper edge portion having a second edge height above the base, ~~wherein the first and second edge heights are defined by the first and second upper edge portions, respectively.~~

29. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 28, wherein first pair of notches in each opposing wall is configured to receive the support members to facilitate support of a second identical container at a first stacking height above the base, and wherein the second pair of notches in each opposing wall is configured to receive the support members to facilitate support of the second identical container at a second stacking height above the base, wherein the first stacking height is different than the second stacking height.

30. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 29, wherein the first pair of notches in each opposing wall is configured to receive and retain the support members at a first support member height above the base, and wherein the second pair of notches in each opposing wall is configured to receive and retain the support members at a second support member height above the base, wherein the first support member height is higher than the second support member height.

31. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the opposing wall upper edges are horizontal, and wherein each of the first pair of notches and has a first depth, and wherein each of the second pair of notches extends vertically downward from the corresponding opposing wall upper edge has a second depth, wherein the first depth is shallower than the second depth.

32. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 31, wherein the exterior surface of each of the opposing walls defines a pair of peanut-shaped receptacles for

effecting pivotal mounting of the support members to the exterior surface of each of the opposing walls.

33. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 32, wherein the support member includes a first inwardly-turned end and a second inwardly-turned end and, wherein each of the first inwardly-turned end and the second inwardly-turned end are disposed in a corresponding one of the receptacles provided in the exterior surface of each of the opposing walls, the inwardly-turned ends being moveable within the receptacles.

34. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 33, wherein each of the receptacles receives a respective one of the inwardly-turned ends to facilitate pivotal movement of the support member about a pivot axis which is moveable relative to the container.

35. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 34, wherein each of the receptacles comprises a downwardly-curved peanut-shaped slot having an upwardly extending middle portion.

36. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 17, wherein each of the receptacles has a curved upper edge ~~is substantially circular with a bump in a lower portion thereof.~~

37. (Currently Amended) A container comprising:  
a base configured to provide vertical support to objects;

a pair of sidewalls;

a pair of opposing walls projecting above the base, each of the opposing walls presenting an exterior surface defining two receptacles therein, each receptacle comprising a downwardly-curved ~~peanut-shaped~~ slot having (i) a curved, concave-shaped top portion, and (ii) a bottom portion which has a middle section extending vertically above adjacent left and right side sections, each of the opposing walls including:

an upper edge; and

at least two grooves and at least four notches provided in the upper edge, two of the at least four notches having a notch depth, measured perpendicular to the upper edge adjacent the corresponding notch, which is greater than the notch depth of ~~extending deeper into the opposing wall than~~ the remaining notches;

two support members, each support member being pivotally mounted within a receptacle of each of the opposing walls to facilitate pivotal movement of said each support member relative to the opposing walls;

wherein each support member is configured to rest within each of the corresponding opposing wall grooves and notches for effecting retention of said each support member at three different support member rest positions, one of said three different support member rest positions being lower than the other two support member rest positions.

38. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 37, wherein two notches on each opposing wall are configured to receive the corresponding support member to facilitate support of a second identical container at a first stacking height above the base, and wherein two other notches on each opposing wall are configured to receive the corresponding

support member to facilitate support of the second identical container at a second stacking height above the base, wherein the first stacking height is different than the second stacking height.

39. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 38, wherein two notches on each opposing wall are configured to receive and retain the corresponding support member at a first support member height above the base, and wherein two other notches on each opposing wall are configured to receive and retain the corresponding support member at a second support member height above the base, wherein the first support member height is higher than the second support member height.

40. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 39, wherein each of the two notches on each opposing wall has a first notch depth, and wherein each of the other two notches has a second notch depth, wherein the first notch depth is shallower than the second notch depth.

41. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 40, wherein the exterior surface of each of the receptacles is configured to provide pivotal mounting of the corresponding support member to the exterior surface of each of the opposing walls.

42. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 41, wherein each support member includes a single-piece, substantially C-shaped bar having two inwardly-turned ends and, wherein each of the inwardly-turned ends is disposed in a corresponding one of the



receptacles provided in the exterior surface of each of the opposing walls, the inwardly-turned ends being moveable within the receptacles.

43. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 42, wherein each of the receptacles receives a respective one of the inwardly-turned ends to facilitate pivotal movement of the corresponding support member about a pivot axis which is moveable relative to the container.

44. (Currently Amended) A container comprising:

a base configured to provide vertical support to objects;

a pair of side walls;

a pair of opposing walls projecting above the base, each of the opposing walls presenting an exterior surface defining two downwardly-curved, ~~peanut-shaped curvilinear~~ receptacles, each of the opposing walls including:

an upper edge; and

at least two grooves and four notches provided in the upper edge, an inner two of said notches extending deeper into the opposing wall, when measured perpendicular to the upper edge adjacent the corresponding notch, than an outer two of said notches, said each opposing wall extending vertically upward in between the inner two of said notches to a height above a bottommost surface of any notch;

two support members, each support member being pivotally mounted within receptacles of opposing walls to facilitate pivotal movement of said each support member relative to the opposing walls;

wherein each support member is configured to rest within pairs of grooves and notches of the opposing walls for effecting retention of said each support member at three different support member rest positions, one of said support member rest positions being lower than the other support member rest positions.

45. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 44, wherein the inner two notches of each opposing wall are configured to receive the support members to facilitate support of a second identical container at a first stacking height above the base, and wherein the outer two notches of each opposing wall are configured to receive the support members to facilitate support of the second identical container at a second stacking height above the base, wherein the first stacking height is different than the second stacking height.

46. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 45, wherein the inner two notches of each opposing wall are configured to receive and retain the support members at a first support member height above the base, and wherein the outer two notches of each opposing wall are configured to receive and retain the support members at a second support member height above the base, wherein the first support member height is lower than the second support member height.

47. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 46, wherein the inner two notches of each opposing wall have a first notch depth, and wherein the outer two notches of each opposing wall have a second notch depth, wherein the first notch depth is different than the second notch depth.

48. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 47, wherein the exterior surface of each of the opposing walls defines two receptacles for effecting pivotal mounting of the support members to the exterior surface of each of the opposing walls.

49. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 48, wherein each said support member comprises a single-piece, substantially C-shaped bar having two inwardly-turned ends, and wherein each of the inwardly-turned ends is disposed in a corresponding one of the receptacles provided in the exterior surface of each of the opposing walls, the inwardly-turned ends being moveable within the receptacles.

50. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 49, wherein each of the receptacles receives a respective one of the inwardly-turned ends to facilitate pivotal movement of the corresponding support member about a pivot axis which is moveable relative to the container.

51. (Currently Amended) A container comprising:  
a base configured to provide vertical support to objects;  
a pair of side walls extending above the base;  
a pair of opposing walls projecting above the base, each of the opposing walls presenting an exterior surface, each of the opposing walls including:  
an upper edge having (i) an outer pair of grooves, (ii) an outer pair of notches, and (iii) an inner pair of notches, the inner pair of notches extending deeper

into the upper edge, when measured perpendicular to the upper edge adjacent the corresponding notch, than the outer pair of notches, each opposing wall also comprising two ~~peanut-shaped~~ receptacles in the exterior surface thereof, each receptacle having a downwardly curved upper edge; and

two support members, each support member being pivotally mounted to corresponding receptacles on the exterior surfaces of the opposing walls to facilitate pivotal movement of the corresponding support member relative to the corresponding opposing wall;

wherein each support member is configured to register within corresponding pairs of notches for effecting retention of the support member at support member rest positions in the notches, wherein one support member rest position is below the other support member rest positions.

Claims 52-53 (Cancelled).

54. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 51, wherein the outer pair of notches in the opposing walls are configured to receive and retain the support members to facilitate support of a second identical container at a first stacking height above the base, and wherein the inner pair of notches in the opposing walls are configured to receive and retain the support members to facilitate support of the second identical container at a second stacking height above the base, wherein the first stacking height is higher than the second stacking height.

55. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 54, wherein the outer pair of notches in the opposing walls are configured to receive and retain the support members at a first support member height above the base, and wherein the inner pair of notches in the opposing walls are configured to receive and retain the support members at a second support member height above the base, wherein the first support member height is higher than the second support member height.

56. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 55, wherein the outer pair of notches and the outer pair of grooves have the same notch depth.

57. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 56, wherein the support members are configured to vertically support the base of the second identical container when the support members are received and retained by either the outer pair of notches or the inner pair of notches.

58. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 57, wherein the exterior surface of each of the opposing walls defines a receptacle for effecting pivotal mounting of the support member to the exterior surface of each of the opposing walls.

59. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 58, wherein each support member is substantially C-shaped with two inwardly turned ends.

60. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 59, wherein each of the receptacles receives a respective one of the inwardly turned ends to facilitate pivotal movement of the corresponding support member about a pivot axis which is moveable relative to the container.

61. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 51, wherein an entire length of each of the upper edges of the side walls is horizontal.

Claims 62-70 (Cancelled) .

71. (Currently Amended) A container comprising:

- a base configured to provide vertical support to objects;
- a pair of end walls, each having a groove along an upper portion thereof;
- a first retainer means;
- a second retainer means being spaced apart and opposing the first retainer means;

wherein each of the first and second retainer means projects above the base and has an exterior surface, and wherein each of the first and second retainer means includes:

- a first sidewall portion defining an outer pair of notches and an inner pair of notches, the inner pair of notches extending deeper into the first sidewall portion, when measured perpendicular to a top of the first sidewall portion on opposite sides of the corresponding notch, than the outer pair of notches;
- a second sidewall portion disposed between the inner pair of notches and extending upward between the inner pair of notches to a height above the bottommost surface of

any notch;

a pair of ~~peanut-shaped~~ openings disposed in the exterior surfaces of each of the first sidewall portions, each ~~peanut-shaped~~ opening having a concave-shaped upper portion and a convex-shaped lower portion, the convex-shaped lower portion having a middle section which extends vertically above adjacent left and right side sections; and

pivotally mounted in the ~~peanut-shaped~~ openings disposed in the respective first sidewall portions to facilitate pivotal movement of the support members relative to each of the respective first sidewall portions,

wherein each support member is configured to register within respective grooves and pairs of notches for effecting retention of the support member at three different support member rest positions.

72. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 71, wherein each of the first and second sidewall portions is configured to oppose the objects vertically supported by the base.

73. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 72, wherein each of the first and second sidewall portions is configured to provide lateral support to the objects vertically supported by the base.

74. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 73, wherein the inner pair of notches is configured to receive and retain the support members to facilitate support of a second identical container at a first stacking height above the base, and wherein the outer

pair of notches is configured to receive and retain the support members to facilitate support of the second identical container at a second stacking height above the base, wherein the first stacking height is different than the second stacking height.

75. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 74, wherein the inner pair of notches is configured to receive and retain the support members at a first support member height above the base, and wherein the outer pair of notches is configured to receive and retain the support members at a second support member height above the base, wherein the first support member height is different than the second support member height.

76. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 75, wherein the each of the inner pair of notches has the same notch depth.

77. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 76, wherein the support members are configured to vertically support the base of the second identical container when the support members are received and retained by either the inner pair of notches or the outer pair of notches.

Claim 78 (Cancelled) .

79. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 77, wherein each support member is substantially C-shaped with two inwardly turned ends.



80. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 79, wherein each of the ~~peanut-shaped~~ openings receives a respective one of the inwardly turned ends to facilitate pivotal movement of each support member about a pivot axis which is moveable relative to the container.

Claim 81 (Cancelled) .

82. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 80, wherein each of the first and second sidewall portions is configured to oppose the objects vertically supported by the base.

83. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 82, wherein each of the first and second sidewall portions is configured to provide lateral support to the objects vertically supported by the base.

84. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 83, wherein the inner pair of notches is configured to receive and retain the support members to facilitate support of a second identical container at a first stacking height above the base, and wherein the outer pair of notches is configured to receive and retain the support members to facilitate support of a second identical container at a second stacking height above the base, wherein the first stacking height is different than the second stacking height.

85. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 84, wherein the inner pair of notches is configured to receive and retain the support members at a first support member height above the base, and wherein the outer pair of notches is configured to receive and retain the support members at a second support member height above the base, wherein the first support member height is different than the second support member height.

86. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 85, wherein each notch of the inner pair of notches has the same notch depth.

87. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 86, wherein the support members are configured to vertically support the base of the second identical container when the support members are received and retained by either the inner pair of notches or the outer pair of notches.

Claim 88 (Cancelled).

89. (Previously Presented) The container as claimed in Claim 87, wherein each support member comprises a substantially C-shaped bar with two inwardly turned ends.

90. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 89, wherein each of the ~~peanut-shaped~~ openings receives a respective one of the inwardly turned ends

to facilitate pivotal movement of each support member about a pivot axis which is moveable relative to the container.

Claim 91 (Cancelled) .